message was read in factory meetings on November 4, and some of these added spicy words to the Soviet's reply. Workers of a plant that had not walked out on November 2 announced their decision to join the strike by a resolution that said: "We have read Witte's appeal and decided to strike." This exchange brightened the day and made the workers forget their increasing difficulties for a time.

The strike did not spread beyond St. Petersburg. This would not have been alarming if the walkout had been handled as a local affair from the beginning, but, since it had been presented by the Soviet as the curtain raiser for a new national strike, its success had to be measured by the response in other cities, and that was nil.

In some cities, the workers had not recovered economically since the October strike; in others, they had been terrorized by the Black Hundreds. Newspapers that had supported the first general strike were violently opposed to the second. The issue at stake was not made clear to the public, and many people did not know whether workers were demonstrating against the trial of the sailors or intended to continue the strike until the prisoners were released. In St. Petersburg itself, the strike was practically general in industrial precincts but did not extend to the railroads, post office, public utilities, and professions. There was no indication of response in the army barracks.

On November 4, the moderate leaders of the Soviet advised handling the whole affair as a demonstration of protest and calling the workers back, but the majority in the Soviet rejected this proposal.

I spent the next day in the Narva precinct, which included the Putilov mills. Factory gates, fences, and the walls of private houses were plastered with fresh announcements. Knots of men stood in front of them. The management of the Putilov mills and several other establishments announced that all workers who did not return to work immediately would be fired. A dozen plants announced that, in view of the continuing labor unrest, they had decided to shut down. At the same time, the government explained to the public that the Kronstadt sailors were to be tried only for disorderly conduct and were not threatened with the death penalty. It was clear, however, that the pressure of the strike had forced the government to abandon its original plan for bloody retribution. If the death penalty had not been considered, the government would have used this argument at the beginning of the strike. Newspapers, however, tried to persuade the public that the Soviet had engineered the strike under false pretenses.

On November 5, the Soviet decided to end the strike at noon on November 7. To avoid a depressing effect of this decision on the morale of the workers, the resolution called on them to increase